

LEAF BLOTCH AND FRUIT SPOT OF POMEGRANATE

Harry C. Burnett

The pomegranate, *Punica granatum* L., is not grown on a commercial scale in Florida, but it is extensively planted as an ornamental. Doubtless because of this, little attention has been given to its diseases. Pomegranate leaf blotch and fruit spot, *Mycosphaerella lythracearum* Wolf, is the most destructive disease of this host in the state. It is common wherever pomegranate is grown. The conidial stage, *Cercospora punicae* P. Henn., is present throughout the entire year on green foliage.

SYMPTOMATOLOGY.—As the plant retains some of its foliage throughout the entire year, affected leaves may be found during any season. The presence of circular to somewhat angular, dark, reddish-brown to almost black areas, 4 to 5 mm in diameter, characterize the leaf blotch form of this disease (Figure 1-A). Affected leaves are pale green and fall prematurely.

The first evidence of disease on the fruit is small, but conspicuous, dark brown spots. These are circular in outline but because of unequal radial growth soon become irregular (Figure 1-B). A considerable portion of the surface of the fruit may become discolored by coalescence of these spots.

CONTROL.—A fixed copper fungicide will control the fungus on pomegranate. An exact spray schedule has not been worked out. At least three, and probably more, spray applications per year may be needed to give desired control.

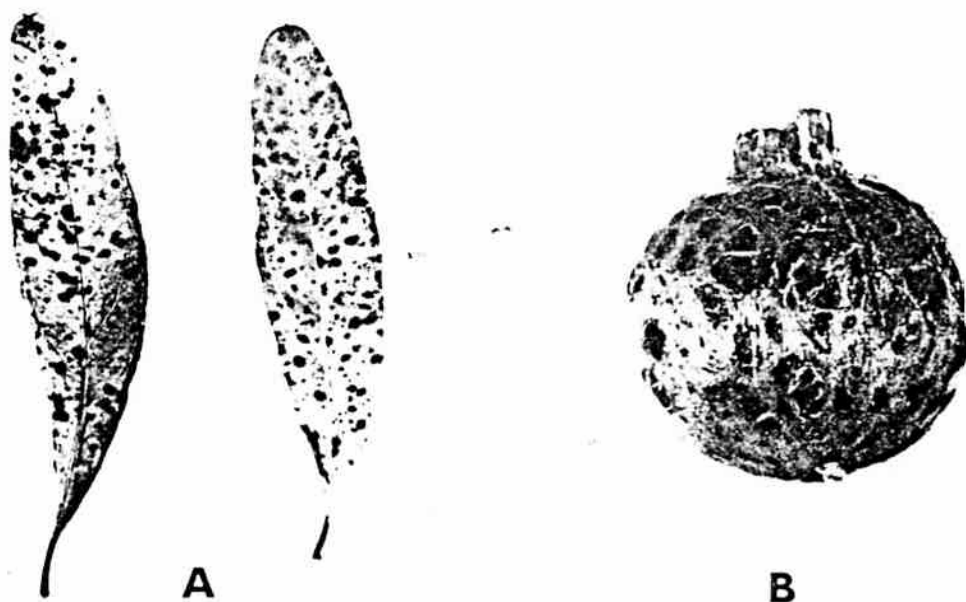


Figure 1. Leaf blotch (A), and fruit spot (B) caused by *Mycosphaerella lythracearum* Wolf on pomegranate, *Punica granatum* L.

Reference

Wolf, F. A. 1927. Pomegranate blotch. J. Agr. Res. 35:465-469.